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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

The First Bachelor As Four-Star General - Hurriyet
PM: Expelled Military Officers Should have Right to Appeal - Sabah
UN Envoy DeMello: Turkey can Play Important Role in Iraq - Hurriyet
Markets Inspired by IMF Decision - Sabah
IMF Decision Boosts Morale - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

No Surprises in Military Appointments - Radikal
Fundamentalists Expelled from the Military - Cumhuriyet
DeMello: Too Early for New Decision on Iraq - Zaman
FM Gul Talks to UN Rep About Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Rocket Attack Against Turkish Trucks - Radikal
Turkish Truck Attacked in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
IMF Decision to Extend Loan Repayments Eases Market Concerns - Zaman

BRIEFING

High Military Council (YAS) Decisions: All papers extensively cover the results of the four-day long High Military Council (YAS) meeting. The sessions concluded yesterday with President Sezer's approval of all decisions. Papers report that with the current promotion decisions, the path to the position of Chief of General Staff has been opened to General Yasar Buyukanit in 2006, General Ilker Basbug in 2008, and General Koksak Karabayi in 2010. In a banner headline, "Hurriyet" notes that Lt.Gen. Fethi Remzi Tuncel is the first bachelor to reach the rank of general in the Turkish army. Following his promotion, General Tuncel was assigned as Land Forces Staff Commander. Lt.Gen. Sukru Sariisik was promoted to the rank of general and appointed as NSC Secretary General for one year. "Radikal" reports that 18 officers have been expelled from the military for fundamentalist activity. Both PM Erdogan and Defense Minister Gonul placed a reserve on the expulsions, arguing that those expelled should have the right to appeal.

UN Iraqi Envoy Sergio De Mello: All papers covered the meeting of UN Iraqi envoy De Mello with FM Gul. "Hurriyet" draws attention to De Mello's views of how Turkey could play an important role in the reconstruction of Iraq. De Mello said that "it is too early for a UN decision authorizing the dispatch of international peacekeeping troops to Iraq." "Cumhuriyet" reports that FM Gul DeMello's attention to the importance of Iraq's territorial integrity, equal treatment of different ethnic groups, and the importance of a nationwide census followed by fair elections.

Iraqis Attack Turkish Convoy: "NTV" reported that two Turkish truck carrying goods in a convoy for the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad was hit in a rocket attack yesterday. The trucks sustained heavy damaged, but the drivers escaped without serious injury.

IMF Decision to Extend Credit Repayment: Most papers report on the positive mood in Turkish markets following the IMF decision to extend the schedule for Turkish debt repayment and the release of low inflation numbers for June and July. The stock market rose by 4.5 percent, while interest rates dropped by nearly three points.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Liberia; Afghanistan

"Justice in Liberia"

Erdal Guven opined in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (8/5): "The brutal civil war in Liberia led to a UN decision to form a new international peacekeeping force. It was also interesting to see that Liberia, even though a stabilization force already existed there, was begging the US to intervene. . The UN force, however, has a major flaw. The contributors to the UN force will not be subject to the International Criminal Court. Instead, they will be tried according to the laws of their own countries. It might be dangerous to assume that the UN peacekeeping force represents the 'good' side, not the bad. If the International community aims at bringing responsible Liberian leaders to justice, the same rules and regulations should also apply to members of the UN peacekeeping force, at least for the sake fairness."

"End of the Karzai model"

Ibrahim Karagul wrote in Islamist-intellectual Yeni Safak (8/5): "It seems things are not working well for the US and its puppet Karzai regime in Afghanistan. Members of the Karzai administration have met with Taliban representatives in Pakistan. This was followed by Iran's 'counter-move,' which resulted in the return of Hikmetyar to Iran. All of these developments show that the Afghan equilibrium is in constant flux. The fact of the matter is that the 'fight against terrorism' is only a pretext to cover the real goal, which is a war against Afghan sovereignty and for a share of its resources. Afghanistan is only a part of the US plan for global occupation."

DEUTSCH